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LIBRARY SCIENCE
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MINNESOTA LIBRARIES



COUNTY LIBRARIES

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Volume XIX

JUNE, 1960

Number 10

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MINNESOTA LIBRARIES is published quarterly by the Library Division, Minnesota Department of Education, St. Paul. Entered as Second Class Matter, October 19, 1911, at the Post Office at St. Paul, Minn., under the Act of July 16, 1894. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage, provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized August 1, 1918.

Code XIII—A-1.



Introduction

This issue carries brief accounts of seven more of Minnesota's county libraries, designed to bring the articles published in 1944 up to date. Most of these articles are in the form used for the Hennepin County Library in our last issue, but some are more nearly narrative, in both form and content. Other county libraries and the new regional libraries will be covered in future issues.

While modern concepts of public library service, and the accompanying studies of library organization and management, now regard library organization as being properly on the basis of size of unit and library budget, rather than on simple governmental unit involved, the county remains the taxing and appointing authority under Minnesota law even when a group of counties combines in a regional library system. This makes the county the primary building block in the development of regional libraries in Minnesota.

The Outlook

Our well-organized, well-supported county libraries therefore have an important role to play in the future of library development in Minnesota as well as continuing their equally important function of serving the public in their own counties. The librarians and trustees of our county libraries can and should be the best "missionaries" we have in the growth of rural library systems in our state. While the personnel of the Library Division are welcomed, and their advice and opinion graciously received, by county officials in the majority of our counties where there is no county-wide library service; nevertheless, these same officials, many of whom have doubts and questions concerning the value of such library service to their constituents, are convinced more readily of the importance of establishing service if they have had an oppor-

tunity to learn more about it from people who are actually involved in a neighboring county. This means that every existing well-organized and operated county library has a real responsibility for the growth and development of rural library services in other parts of the state.

Regional Library Program

A second major responsibility of our county libraries, in addition to "spreading the good word" lies in their potential for regional library development. There are now only a few areas of the state where there are counties which do not adjoin at least one with a county wide service. If regional libraries are developed in such areas, the existing county libraries are logically potential members of the regional system. Therefore, each county librarian and board of trustees should also be studying their neighbor counties to determine which ones most appropriately should join with them in a regional development. At the same time, a climate of opinion among various county, city and village officials must be created favorable to the idea of expanding into a regional library system. While the existing library boards are the legal authorities for participation in a region by their units of government, they know they must have the consent and support of their government officials if the region is to continue with any degree of success. After all, the library is supported by funds which these officials provide through tax levies.

These articles, and others like them already published or to be published, are designed to provide a basis of public information about our county and regional libraries and their activities, so that this information can be used effectively toward the continued growth of public library service in Minnesota.

Anoka County Library Report, 1959

GEORGE GARDNER, *Director*

ESTABLISHED:

January 1958 under Chap. 3, Sec. 2, Subd. 10, Extra Session Laws Minnesota 1957 & Public Law 597, 84th Congress, 2nd Session.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT:

1958—\$58,102 Federal & State + 1.0 mill county levy

1959—\$39,063 Federal & State + 1.3 mill county levy

1960—\$22,260 Federal & State + 2.2 mill county levy

ADMINISTRATION:

Five member Library Board appointed by the County Commissioners.

AREA SERVED:

Anoka County Library provides public library service to Anoka County (an area of 425 sq. miles) excluding the City of Anoka and Columbia Heights.

GROWTH PATTERN:

1958 Circ.— 5,928 (began service in mid-November)

1959 Circ.—143,645 (first full year of operation)

HEADQUARTERS:

Headquarters has been established in Spring Lake Park which is centrally located in relation to the population distribution and the highway network. The headquarters staff consists of two professional librarians, one semi-professional, who doubles as a cataloger for the County and as a children's librarian for Anoka Public Library, and four clerical assistants. The County Library book collection totals 17,130 volumes.

BRANCHES:

The Coon Rapids branch was opened on January 5, 1959 in that City's main shopping center. Service is given during three afternoons and two evenings each week or a total of fourteen hours. Additional time will be given as the demand increases in that area. Coon Rapids circulation for '59 totaled 17,794. On February 10, 1959 a second branch was opened in Circle Pines-Lexington area. Known as the Southeast branch it too, is open three afternoons and two evenings each week for a total of four-

teen hours. Southeast circulation during 1959 was 17,714.

BRANCH PERSONNEL:

Two clerical assistants from headquarters man the branches in addition to their other duties. This kind of staffing insures uniformity of procedure and policy at all outlets, better liaison between outlets and headquarters, and enjoys the further advantage of using personnel who are familiar with the entire book collection and other library resources.

BOOKMOBILE:

One of the larger Gerstenslagers handles our mobile service. Sixty-four stops are visited at two-week intervals. A driver-clerk handles all of the runs in addition to his janitorial duties. A former high school teacher serves as bookmobile librarian. 62,474 books were circulated from this unit during 1959.

SCHOOLS:

By virtue of the laws under which we operate school service has been excluded.

FILM SERVICE:

Library is a member of the Minnesota Library Film Circuit. In 1959 the circuit films were viewed by 4,994 persons. A Bell & Howell sound projector and screen are available for loan also.

CONTRACTUAL SERVICES:

The City of Columbia Heights contracted with the County Library to have their yearly allotment of books selected, purchased, and processed, to have their book collection weeded and recataloged and to have other professional help furnished as needed. The County Library was instrumental in securing additional funds from their City Council to strengthen their juvenile book collection. The Public Library of the City of Anoka contracted with the County Library for the complete processing of their books. Their books are delivered directly from the jobber to the county headquarters and the finished product forwarded to the Public Library soon after.

The County Library processes the books ordered by the Dakota-Scott Regional Library. Each book as it arrives from the

jobber, is checked in, accessioned, stamped, covered, classified, subject headings assigned, pocketed and the plastic book card embossed. The catalog cards are made at Dakota-Scott according to the work-slip furnished by the County Library, the printing being done with the plastic book card mentioned above.

CHARGING SYSTEM:

The County Library employs the Book-automatic charging system devised by Addressograph-Multigraph. This automatic book charging system employs plastic borrowers charge-a-plates, plastic book cards, and a three copy, snap-out carbon transaction form. A full description of this charging system can be found in the Library Journal for November 1, 1958. Its installation necessitated a considerable investment, but the savings which will accrue to any library using it will more than compensate for the initial expense. We feel that it will reduce our clerical costs through the elimination of: (1) filing of book cards; (2) pre-dating date-due slips; (3) slipping of books; (4) maintenance of numerical registration files; (5) replacement of filled or worn book cards; (6) manual writing of over-due notices; and finally it will provide for constant expanding circulation with no appreciable increase in labor costs.

FUTURE PLANS AND TRENDS:

Anoka County is the fastest growing county

in the state jumping from 35,579 in 1950 to 85,810 as of the latest census. There is a greater percentage of urban dwellers than rural and the disparity between them will increase with each passing year. With little industrial property contributing to the tax load, 70% of the burden must be shouldered by the residents. The 2 mill limitation set by the State Legislature would have been a serious handicap. Fortunately our far-sighted County Commissioners successfully appealed to the legislature for permission to levy 3 mills. This will enable the County Library to function on a reduced budget, without facing the serious restriction imposed by a 2 mill budget. If the proposed State Aid to county libraries is passed by the legislature our future will be much more secure.

The prospect of renting quarters for perpetuity is a dim one. The permissive legislation being sought by the M.L.A. would allow the county to bond itself to build headquarters. This is much to be desired and definitely more economically feasible.

The City of Fridley consisting of that portion of the county bordering Columbia Heights and Minneapolis is very densely populated and furnishes the lion's share of the bookmobile circulation. It is hoped that their city council will soon furnish quarters for a branch, thereby enabling the County Library to give better service and to release the bookmobile for pioneering in other areas.

Third Governor's Conference on Aging

The third biennial Governor's Conference on Aging will be held in Minneapolis, at the Pick-Nicollet Hotel, Thursday and Friday, August 25 and 26. The theme will be "Design for Action" and the conference will emphasize what needs to be done and how to do it.

The entire conference will be of great importance to both libraries and trustees, and they will be especially interested in the two workshops on education which will include library activities and responsibilities in their considerations. Hannis S. Smith is Co-chairman of the Education section of the Conference, with William Keenan, of the Wilder Foundation.

The Blue Earth County Library System

A History -- Past and Present

GILFORD JOHNSON, *Librarian*

The Blue Earth County Library is presently one of the older county libraries from the standpoint of date or origin in the state. It had its initial beginning in the days of the W.P.A. program, as did so many other community services, now widely acknowledged.

The W.P.A. Statewide Library Service sponsored a demonstration during the year 1939. Library stations were set up in eight towns throughout the county. During the first year, 20,000 books were loaned at the library headquarters and at the established stations. With this encouragement, a county meeting was called May 15, 1940, to form a citizens' library association and to plan a campaign for a permanent library system. Numerous petitions to establish such were presented to the county commissioners, who, as a result, placed the matter on the ballot. At this point, many difficulties presented themselves. One concerned the passage of the necessary 1 mill tax levy. A second difficulty involved the matter of a contract with the Mankato Library Board. Under the state law at that time the only recourse was to contract for services with Mankato. Finally, on March 6, 1941, the contract was signed, authorizing Mankato to set up and administer the county library, and a librarian, Mrs. Florence Wellhausen, was appointed to organize county service. The groundwork for a workable system was well established during the next two years. Mrs. Wellhausen resigned her position in 1943 and Mrs. Margaret Leonard Croswell was appointed to take her place.

Mrs. Croswell had had wide experience as a teacher and librarian before taking over the post. She was formerly librarian of the Morgan Public Library which she organized in 1939. She was a graduate of the University of Minnesota where she took her library degree. During the next 15 years, the length of her connection with the county library system, the level of service to county residents steadily improved in spite of many difficulties. Contract service to rural schools was established, stations continued to grow, the beginning of an audio-visual program, and many other services, were only some

of the developments that took place while the library was under her direction.

Perhaps most important were her efforts to promote a federal grant for the improvement of county library service. Recognizing the importance of such a grant, and what it could accomplish, both the Mankato Library Board, and the Blue Earth County Commissioners, applied for, and received, such a grant. Under the Federal Library Services Act, an amount of \$17,900 was received. A large part of this was set aside for the improvement of the two branches at Mapleton and Lake Crystal, which consisted largely in the strengthening of the reference and non-fiction collections at both libraries, as well as various additions to furniture and fixtures. The major purpose of the grant was to allow for the purchase of a bookmobile. In this regard, a vehicle was purchased from the Gerstenslager Co., Wooster, Ohio. It is custom made, cost slightly under \$8,000, and carries a book stock of around 1600 volumes. The real impact on the improvement in library service that the bookmobile is making will be seen even more in the oncoming months. Suffice to say, that a truly modern form of library service is now being rendered. It is a tremendous improvement over the old program of housing small deposits of books in often inadequate quarters.

An additional service program was begun several months later when the Library became a member of the Minnesota Library Film Circuit. Thus far, the new program has been very well received.

Mrs. Croswell submitted her resignation to the Mankato Library Board on January 5, 1959. Mrs. Dorothy Meyers did an excellent job as acting librarian until the Mankato Board could select a successor.

Gilford Johnson, a graduate of the University of Minnesota Library School, was appointed as the new County Librarian on September 1, 1959. The changing of a long-standing form of administrative organization occurred shortly afterwards. This concerned the matter of the contract with the Mankato Library Board. The failure of agi-

tation over the years by numerous county residents for representation on the city library board resulted in the commissioners voting for a nullification of the present contract. A new contract for rental of the present quarters was drawn up and subsequently approved. A new county library board of 5 members was appointed, to begin on January 1, 1960.

Presently the Blue Earth County Library System consists of the following outlets: The headquarters continues to remain in its present place, the basement of the Mankato Public Library. Active branch libraries are maintained at Mapleton and Lake Crystal. Over the years, due to improved connections with the headquarters, as well as with other large libraries, and with changes in patrons' reading habits, the number of stations have been reduced to eight. Presently, stations are maintained at Amboy, Vernon Center, Garden City, Good Thunder, St. Clair, Eagle Lake, Madison Lake, and a very small one at Butternut. As mentioned previously, the bookmobile is gradually assuming a great deal of the circulation that was formerly handled by the library headquarters and through the system of branches and stations. In addition, the library is reaching a good many more readers who, living in the more sparsely populated areas, were previously poorly served, if at all.

The staff of the headquarters presently numbers 4 fulltime employees (1 person working only 4 days). They are: the librarian, asst. librarian, bookmobile driver, and a clerk. The librarian's duties are largely administrative, and include public relations, all book selection, reading guidance and reference work, promotion of the special services of the library, and general supervision of staff and quarters. In addition, he is responsible for the extension of library service throughout all areas of the county and for general station management. The assistant librarian serves as the catalog and circulation librarian. She also doubles in reference and reading guidance. She is in charge of all book and materials processing. The bookmobile driver, in addition to his duties of driving and maintaining the vehicle, assists in planning the schedule of stops, mends books, and so on. The clerical assistant serves the very important function of bookmobile librarian during the time the vehicle is on the road, which is presently 4

afternoons, or about 15 hours a week. The maintenance of two persons to staff the bookmobile is heavily recommended by standards of the American Library Association. Thusly, a high level of reading guidance is given and a superior level of service is maintained. Other than these duties, the major portion of her time is spent assisting in such office tasks as typing and filing catalog cards, shelving, circulation and reference, and, in general, assisting where needed.

In summarizing this report, let us take a look at the present situation. The problems that are presently confronting us are these. We have reached the limit of our ability to expand in our present quarters. In the beginning, when the book collection was small, such quarters were adequate. Now, however, with the number of volumes rapidly approaching the 50,000 mark, shelf space has vanished and "the walls are groaning." Another problem concerns the matter of rising costs. The book that cost \$3.00 five years ago, today more than likely approaches \$5.00. Salaries, cost of supplies, etc., have also increased, as they have in all other areas of government service and business management. When one examines the fact that the current mill rate, $1\frac{1}{4}$ mills, *has remained without change since 1952*, one can see where the difficulty in meeting steadily increasing expenses comes in. The rate of return per mill rate has actually increased very little in the past eight years—1952 bring in about \$17,900, and, at present, 1959-60, slightly over \$18,500.

Other problems faced include the definite need for a program of bookmobile and general library promotion. We are in competition today with many new factors not so common years ago—television, a change in general reading habits, and so on. The reference function of the library needs to be developed and stressed much more. County residents have as great a need for accurate information on any number of topics as do the users of a city system. The library is, after all, *the center of information in the community*.

The statewide library movement has changed greatly over the past decade, particularly so within the past couple of years. Much of this is due to the Federal Library Services Act, the benefits of which Blue

Earth County residents shared in. Many new county libraries have been established or are in the process of being so. A new form of organization—the multi-county or regional plan (the efforts of several counties to combine services) has worked well in those areas of the state where it has been tried. The Dakota-Scott Regional Library and the just established East-Central Regional, head-

quarters at Cambridge in Isanti County, are examples.

The present staff of the Blue Earth County Library and the Library Board will continue in their efforts to continually improve service. For we have not yet reached the point where we can say, "we have the best service that is available." By standing still, we would only be passed by.

From the ALA Washington Newsletter

CONGRESS TEMPORARILY ADJOURNS

After an all-night session Congress recessed Sunday morning, July 3, so the Senators and Representatives could participate in the coming national conventions. Many bills of importance are still awaiting action and will be given priority when Congress reconvenes in August for what is expected to be a brief, clean-up session. The Senate voted to return on August 8 but the House will not convene until the following Monday, August 15.

ACTION POSTPONED ON LIBRARY SERVICES ACT EXTENSION

Speaker Rayburn had agreed to call up H.R. 12125 under suspension of the rules on the first Monday in July. Then the House voted to recess on Sunday, July 3.

Action will now have to be postponed until the August session. Since the third Monday (August 15) falls on the day the House reconvenes, the bills to be brought up under suspension of the rules will not be called until the following Monday, August 22. This is the day we must make certain that the Representatives who support our bill are on the Floor of the House and prepared to work for favorable action on H.R. 12125.

AUGUST WILL BE CRUCIAL MONTH

Before the Representatives from your State return to Washington on August 15, a concerted effort should be made to talk to each one personally about the necessity of passing the Library Services Act this year. Plan the visit carefully, make it brief, stress the importance of the program to your own State and point out why the legislation must be enacted before the 86th Congress finally adjourns. Try to get active support from those who have been lukewarm, ask Sponsors and known supporters to talk to their colleagues, enlist their help with the House leadership in getting prompt consideration of the bill. If everyone—librarians, trustees and friends of libraries—works very hard at the beginning of August, we can yet win this battle in the 1960 Session. It won't be easy, but it can be done.

Clay County Library--Moorhead, Minn.

MYRTLE T. RUNDQUIST, *Librarian*

ORGANIZATION:

Clay County library was established in 1949 as a result of a majority vote of the people in the November 1948 election. The County Commissioners contract with Moorhead Public Library to administer library service to an area of 1,000 square miles having a population of 15,898 (1960). The Moorhead Library Board serves as the legal board but a 14 member County Advisory Board represents the citizens and may consult with the staff and/or Library Board on any matter of concern.

SERVICE POINTS:

Branches at Barnesville in a separate building and at Hawley in a room in a community building are open 12 hours each week. Ulen has a deposit shelf in a grocery store.

The Bookmobile stops at each of 15 villages, 10 homes and 9 schools once every three weeks by going out three days each week.

The Moorhead Public Library also serves county people directly from its collection.

The 3 rural schools in the county are served directly and regularly get collections of books as needed. Five village school stops are made so that these pupils as individuals may have public library service since no other service point is available to them. Collections of books are not supplied to these schools.

MATERIALS AVAILABLE:

20,000 county books of which 5,500 are at branches.

1,540 books were added during 1959.

Access to the 30,000 book collection of the Moorhead Public Library.

480 filmstrips, magazines, 16mm films, 275 phonograph records and 48 framed paintings.

Circulation of materials has grown from 42,600 in 1950 (first full year) to 67,000 in 1959.

AID FUNDS:

\$13,350 was received in 1958 and funds were used to improve the stations with added shelving and library furniture. A card catalog was made for the largest branch. The non-fiction collection was improved for the stations and bookmobile.

A membership in Film Circuit, phonograph records and circulating art collection were also purchased.

FUTURE PLANS:

Clay County is watching neighboring counties for any new development in county organization. It is hoped that a merger with one or more counties for a regional set-up would enlarge and improve our service, too. Stations at Ulen and Hitterdal are being considered.

A two week schedule instead of a three week one is being considered.

Opportunity and time for bookmobile librarian to work closer with club leaders and community groups.

OTHER COMMENTS:

A Gerstenslager bookmobile of 1,800—2,000 book capacity made its first trip in November 1949. The 1½-ton Dodge truck was replaced in 1958 with an MGM chassis. In 1959, cost per month to operate the Bookmobile averaged \$39 plus \$30 for garage rent.

10% of county budget is charged for administration by Moorhead Public Library. There is a joint use of all materials by both libraries. Books and materials are processed by staff at Moorhead Public Library which is really a joint city and county staff since half of salaries of two people is paid by county funds.

Marshall-Lyon County Library Report, 1960

MARGARET B. STEVENS, *Librarian*

BACKGROUND HISTORY:

Although a small library sponsored by members of women's clubs of Marshall had been open to town residents for ten or more years it was not until August, 1901, that a library board appointed by the mayor was actually organized and a tax of one mill levied by the city. By December, 1901 the book collection numbered 1,204 volumes with 115 borrowers registered. In 1903 a grant of \$10,000 was secured from Andrew Carnegie and by the fall of 1904 the present library building was completed.

From 1901 until early in the forties residents of Marshall had free library service but charges were made to non-residents. After a rather lengthy delay with many disappointments to Lyon County men and women who were anxious to see books made available to all county residents a final contract was drawn up between the Board of County Commissioners and the Library Board of Marshall on December 7, 1943. This provided that headquarters for the Lyon County Library be set up in the basement of the Carnegie building and a tax of one mill be levied on all taxable property of Lyon County which had not been otherwise taxed for library purposes. A librarian was appointed in March, 1944 and fourteen rural stations set up throughout the county.

For a little more than three years the Marshall Public Library and the Lyon County Library, although housed in the same building, were two separate organizations. In 1947 through the hard work and enthusiasm of the librarian, Elizabeth Hage, a reorganization of the two libraries was accomplished and on June 3 a contract was signed by the Lyon County Board of Commissioners and the Board of Trustees of the Carnegie Public Library of Marshall providing that a county appropriation of about \$10,000 be paid to the City Treasurer in return for library services throughout the county. The City of Marshall was to appropriate \$4,000 and furnish the building, heat, light, water, etc. The two book collections were merged with adult books housed on the main floor and children's book in the basement of the

Carnegie building. The library was to be administered by the Marshall Library Board with county advisory members attending two of the regular meetings each year. One member was to be appointed from each commissioner's district. This contract is still in force with changes in appropriations.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT:

A tax levy of 2.15 mills in Marshall provides approximately \$6,500 annually. This will be raised during the current year to \$7,500. The county levy of 1.03 mills provides \$12,000.

AREA SERVED:

All of Lyon County is covered by library service with the exception of Tracy and Minneota where small public libraries are maintained through tax levies.

POPULATION SERVED:

According to the 1950 census 17,959 residents are served. The report for 1959 showed 5,521 registered borrowers. Of these 2,541 were rural residents.

HEADQUARTERS:

The staff at headquarters, the Marshall Public Library, consists of two graduate librarians, one only half time, one librarian with B.A. degree and one session of summer school at the University of Minnesota, and two clerical assistants. During the past several years a retired college dean has volunteered her services three or four afternoons each week. Book collections are sent to stations from headquarters with changes made each six weeks. Deliveries are made by a delivery man with two members of the staff accompanying him on the trips. The library book collection totalled 27,971 on the 1959 report. In addition there were 2,172 books in the school collection.

STATIONS:

In November, 1959 the thirteenth station was opened in Lyon County in a crossroads' store about ten miles south of Marshall. The largest station, Cottonwood, has an average collection of 1400 books in addition to more than a hundred in the permanent collection.

The station is housed in the town hall with a small space for reading. The monthly circulation now reaches more than a thousand. Three of the remaining stations are in stores, one in a private home, two in post offices, one in a barber shop, two in cafes, one in an insurance office, and one in a large room below a bank, furnished by the village. No rentals are paid for space used and the salaries of attendants range from \$5.00 to \$32.50 a month. The salary scale is based on circulation at the stations. The hours in which the stations are open vary. Most of them are open eight or ten hours daily. Balaton and Cottonwood, the largest stations, are open three afternoons and evenings a week. In 1959 the total circulation through the stations was 28,714. In 1948, first year after the libraries were reorganized, the total station circulation was 10,515. Approximately 4500 books are at the stations at present.

SCHOOLS:

Although ten years ago 22 schools in Lyon County were under contract with the library at the present time only one school district is being served. This change is due to the radical consolidation of rural schools in this area with libraries available in town schools to which the pupils are transported. In 1959 the school circulation was 1,023.

COMMUNITY CONTACTS:

The Lyon County Friends of the Library, a nucleus of library-interested women in the county, meets annually for an afternoon program and social hour arranged by the executive committee and the librarian. A new set of children's encyclopedias was given by this organization.

Book reviews, book talks, and informational talks concerning the library, its organization, and program are given frequently during the year to study clubs and service organizations.

Public and parochial school classes, accompanied by teachers, visit the main library and some of the stations during spring book

week as well as other times during the year. Story hours for children are held during the summer school vacation. The Marshall library as well as a few of the stations conduct summer reading programs.

A number of books have been placed in the library as memorials, including a second set of children's encyclopedias.

PUBLICITY:

Special articles are published in the county newspapers calling the attention of the readers to library progress and services.

Short book talks by the librarians are broadcast frequently over the local radio station.

TOTAL CIRCULATION:

Growth in circulation during the past years has been gratifying.

Year	Rural Circulation	Marshall Circulation	Total
1955	32,055	46,466	78,521
1956	34,676	47,181	81,857
1957	31,484	44,058	75,542
1958	34,362	47,017	81,379
1959	42,765	49,033	91,798

These figures do not include circulation through rural schools.

FUTURE TRENDS AND PLANS:

Our crying need at present is for greater space and increased appropriations. Although a large amount of shelving has been added at headquarters and a few of the stations the shelves are still very crowded. There is no room for extra services such as films and records, nor does the present staff have the time these services would require. At present the board and staff are trying to inform the residents of the area about these needs by placing posters in the stations and publicizing them in newspapers and through individual contacts. Although the Carnegie building is in bad condition there seems at present little likelihood that a bond issue providing funds for a new library can be passed.

History of the Martin County Library

EDWIN HUGHES, *Librarian*

The complete history of the founding of the Martin County Library System can be found in Minnesota Libraries September 1944 written by Emily Mayne, librarian. This report covers the period from 1945 to date after a summary of the background material found in Miss Mayne's article.

The first work toward county library service began in 1939 by supervisors of the W.P.A. State Wide Library Project and Farm Bureau leaders as well as other organizations. Local libraries were organized in five towns but with the end of the W.P.A. project only two libraries Triumph and Sherburn remained in operation until the establishment of the county library.

Petitions were signed asking the county commissioners to place on the ballot the question of whether to levy a one mill tax for county library service. This was done and the approval was received by both rural area vote and total county vote.

The commissioners approached the Fairmont City Library Board and asked them to provide contract service for the county residents. The City library board refused to do this so the county commissioners appointed one of the first county library boards in the state.

The board appointed Miss Emily Mayne as county librarian and rented a store building 16x20 feet with a basement about twice the size about half a block off the main business street for \$40 a month.

The decision of the board was that the villages should pay for the quarters, light and heat and the library would pay for salaries, books and services. Ten stations were opened mainly in village halls, with station attendants being paid 30 cents an hour. The book collections at the stations varied from 200 to 700 books. The librarian was paid mileage to deliver the books to the stations in her own car.

The Martin County Rural School Library which served 90 rural schools and had been managed by contract by the Fairmont Public Library upon agreement of both boards was turned over to the county library for operations.

At the end of the first year of operation the county library had 6500 volumes, a total

circulation of 70,000 and an income of \$13,000. The library suffered a setback in 1945 when the tax levy was reduced 20% but several years later after much work by many organizations the levy was restored.

Miss Mayne resigned in December 1948 and by that time the library had 12 stations, was serving 2 graded elementary and secondary schools, 66 rural schools and 2 rural parochial schools. There were 18,000 books in the county collection and 7,500 in the rural school collection. The circulation for the county library was 71,000 and 54,000 for the rural school collection which indicates the excellent work done by Miss Mayne in laying the foundation for good library service.

For a year the library was without a professional librarian until 1950 when Robert Stickney was employed. During the year he was with the library he developed the audio visual department and shelved the county and rural school collections together. Stickney resigned in 1951 and the library found itself in financial difficulties due to the inadequate tax levy, and due to expenditures being greater than income.

Eugene McLane was then hired and during his tenure the library's tax levy was increased to put it on a sound financial base. Also the headquarters library was moved to a new store building with a main floor 20x50 feet, a balcony and basement. The building had display windows facing the street, fluorescent lighting and air conditioning. Rent for this building was \$150 a month.

During this time book service to the two hospitals in the county was instituted. Contract service to the consolidated secondary schools was also expanded. Rural school service was continually decreasing and by 1954 when McLane resigned there were only 30 rural schools left.

In October 1954 the present librarian Edwin Hughes assumed the duties of head librarian. Since 1954 a new library building has been built in Ceylon and new library quarters were secured in Truman and remodeling was done in the Sherburn library.

A new station wagon was purchased to deliver books to the stations to replace an

old worn out panel truck. The board has felt that since they are serving a smaller, well-populated county that it should continue the system of stations which are open two to six days a week rather than substitute bookmobile service. If the library were serving a larger area then a bookmobile would be practicable.

Remodeling was done at headquarters and space for another children's room was acquired from an adjoining building for an additional \$25.00 a month.

A change in emphasis was introduced by Hughes with agreement of the state library division who felt that the secondary schools should build up their own school libraries. The contract book service is now only extended to one graded elementary school. Since there are only five rural schools left out of the original ninety the rural school collection has been merged with the county collection.

Probably the most marked change has been in the circulation of the headquarters office. Although headquarters does not serve Fairmont citizens except those who own rural property or pay a membership fee, its circulation has continued to rise. This reflects three probable factors, the growth of the suburbs, the increase in paid Fairmont memberships, and people picking up books while in the city shopping.

The 1949 report shows that 11,000 books were circulated from headquarters and the 1959 report shows that 30,000 books were circulated from headquarters. Total county circulation for 1959 excluding school service was 92,751 with income of \$32,000.

The library has also continued to develop its audio-visual services having over 650 35MM filmstrips and approximately 100 record albums available for rental for its patrons.

The latest venture of the county library is to provide books and other services on a contract basis to Mountain Lake in Cottonwood County. The library board of Mountain Lake contacted the librarian and asked if a contract could be worked out. Hughes contacted Hannis Smith, director

of the Library Division, for advice as to the feasibility of such service. After considerable work, a contract was approved by all parties concerned and service began in July 1959.

Mountain Lake is 20 miles beyond the Martin County border and the librarian has to drive across another county to reach Mountain Lake. Mountain Lake has been very pleased with the service and the county library has been pleased that it has been able to offer this service.

With the advent of the Federal Library Services Act, the Martin County Library Board applied for and received a grant of \$8,750 to add to and improve services. As a result of this grant the library was able to join the Minnesota Library Film Circuit.

The film circuit has been a well received service which has fulfilled a need in this area so that now motion picture films are on hand instead of having to be ordered in advance. A new 16MM sound projector and screen were purchased as well as other audio visual equipment.

The library was able to get the county to purchase a photo copying machine which the library had recommended so that all the county offices could make use of the copying machine. Much additional shelving has been built and installed in the headquarters building and new storage facilities were built to house the magazine collection.

Also as a result of the aid grant the reference collection has been improved and brought up to date by the purchase of many reference and non-fiction books. Staff members have been sent to meetings and institutes as the result of the aid money.

If the library system continues to grow the board will eventually have to face the problem of building a new building in order to house the book collection and its auxiliary services. With all the other competition for man's time the demand for library services continues to grow. This means that long range planning will have to be done in order that the library can maintain its position of importance in serving the county and other areas that need library service.

Ramsey County Public Library

MRS. RUTH E. PALMER, *Librarian*

ESTABLISHED:

Established with an appropriation of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) in 1923.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT:

Supported by an appropriation until 1939. 1939—1 mill under laws of 1919 (Minnesota statutes 375.33)

1949—2 mills on all areas served by County Library

Laws 1957—3 mills; the additional 1 mill to be assessed for four (4) years to be used for the construction of a headquarters building.

ADMINISTRATION:

From 1923 to 1939 the Ramsey County Public Library was under the extension service of the St. Paul Public Library.

From 1939 to 1942 the Ramsey County Public Library was under the Librarian of the St. Paul Public Library.

From 1942 to 1951 the Ramsey County Public Library was administered by the County Librarian and was directly responsible to the Board of County Commissioners.

In 1951 a Library Board of five (5) members were appointed by the Board of County Commissioners. Since that time to the present the library has been under the guidance of a Library Board.

AREA SERVED:

The Ramsey County Public Library gives public library service to all areas of the county excluding St. Paul, No. St. Paul, and White Bear Lake. Area served, 100.8 sq. miles.

GROWTH:

Year	Pop. Served	Circulation
1923	5,845	7,276
1930	9,600	60,722
1940	16,434	82,793
1950	35,831	139,331
1959 (est.)	88,000	165,538*

*Does not include school circulation.

HEADQUARTERS:

Headquarters of the County Library was located in the City of St. Paul since it was organized in 1923. All service was given directly from the Bookmobile. In December

1953, the County Library headquarters moved to the Village of Roseville. The library opened its' headquarters building to the public in April 1954. In addition to serving the public from the headquarters in Roseville, the library now operates two (2) stations, one (1) Bookmobile (another one is on order at the present time), and also serves a school population of 7,111 pupils and 281 teachers with classroom delivery service. The staff includes twelve (12) full-time and six (6) part-time personnel. This includes three (3) full-time personnel and one (1) part-time, who are engaged in fulfilling the contract service to the schools.

The County Library book collection consists of approximately 75,000 volumes excluding the school collection.

STATIONS:

The stations, Lake Johanna and Lakeside are served by personnel from the regular headquarters staff. Each station has an approximate collection of 3,000 volumes, with the privilege of borrowing materials from the library headquarters. The stations circulated 31,254 volumes in 1959.

BOOKMOBILE:

The bookmobile gives two week service to both the heavily populated areas and also to areas that are isolated. It is staffed by a librarian and a driver-clerk. The collection on the bookmobile is approximately 3,000 volumes. The bookmobile also borrows from the library headquarters. The volumes circulated from the bookmobile in 1959 was 48,905.

SCHOOLS:

The library has classroom contract service with three (3) independent school districts. By mutual agreement of the School Boards of Education and the Library Board, this service will terminate in 1964. To date five schools in one of the districts have withdrawn from the contract service and are organizing libraries in its schools.

PUBLICITY:

Weekly book lists, reviews, and articles are published in five (5) local weekly newspapers. Very often the local shoppers' guide features library news.

CIRCULATION:

165,538 volumes were circulated in 1959. This was a gain of 20,484 volumes over 1958. A total of 99,669 volumes were loaned to the schools for 1958-59 school year with an approximate circulation of 145,251.

FUTURE PLANS:

A new bookmobile has been ordered and should be delivered very soon. The plans call for a unit thirty-four feet (34 ft.) long with a capacity of approximately 4,000 volumes.

Beginning this year (1960) an additional one Mill (1) is being received to be used for the construction of a headquarters building.

The assessment of the additional mill will be for four (4) years only and should bring in a total of approximately two-hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000.00).

Land for the new building will be purchased during the current year. The size will be not less than three (3) or not more than five (5) acres. Space at the headquarters building is the most urgent need at the present time.

Library Training Course

The library training course for non-professional librarians, offered by the University of Minnesota Extension Division in cooperation with the Library Division, State Department of Education, has been offered successfully in three places since the program got under way during this past winter.

George Gardner, Director of the Anoka County Library, taught the course at two locations on alternate weeks from January through June. One section was taught at the Anoka County Library headquarters in Spring Lake Park and included students from the Anoka County Library staff, the Anoka Public Library and the Elk River Public Library. The other section was taught at the Dakota-Scott Regional Library headquarters in Savage, and was attended by staff members from the Regional Library. A total of 18 students successfully completed the course.

Miss Emily Mayne, Supervisor of Extension for the Library Division, is teaching the other class at Crookston which expects to complete the course in August. A total of 16 students are expected to complete the course. They come from the staff of the Polk County Library, including the branch librarians, and from the Thief River Falls and Hallock public libraries.

These classes were the first ones started because they were in the first areas where a sufficient number of students were interested. To organize a class requires a minimum of eight students within an area where all can travel easily to one central place to attend class sessions. The University arranges for the teacher and the Library Division supplies the texts and supplementary reading materials.

The course is especially designed for librarians in the smaller public libraries, and for branch librarians and assistants in county and regional libraries. Tuition is \$35.00 for the course.

Librarians interested in taking the course should write immediately to Miss Emily Mayne, Supervisor of Extension, Library Division, 117 University Ave., St. Paul 1, Minnesota.

Since the supply of textbooks is limited, only a few classes can be taught at any one time.

Stearns County Library Report, 1959

MARY C. BAKER, *Librarian*

ESTABLISHED:

October 1942 under Minnesota statutes 375-33.

The Stearns County Library was started as a Demonstration Library under the WPA and the first library stations were opened in December, 1940. In February, 1942, a group of interested people attended the monthly meeting of the Stearns County Commissioners and a permanent County Library system with a one mill tax for support was established. This was done by vote of the Commissioners rather than by popular vote. The contract was signed in October, 1942.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT:

Laws of 1942—1 mill on area served

Laws of 1955—1½ mill on area served

ADMINISTRATION:

By contract between Stearns County Board of Commissioners and the Library Board of the City of St. Cloud. Librarian appointed by St. Cloud Public Library Board.

AREA SERVED:

Stearns County Library provides library service to all of Stearns County, excluding cities of St. Cloud, Sauk Centre and Paynesville, an area of 1,470 square miles.

HEADQUARTERS:

The Staff includes two librarians and three clerical assistants. Two Branch Libraries and four Library Stations, one Bookmobile and 113 County Schools are serviced with books. Reference service and supervision for the branches and stations are provided from headquarters.

County Library Book collection—25,000

Rural School Book collection—19,000

The School collection is used with the County collection so that all are available for the readers.

1959—2,160 books were purchased from County Funds and 1,658 were added to the School Collection.

BOOKMOBILE:

For the past five years the Bookmobile has operated in our County. It visits the Rural Schools and Villages on a regular schedule. 1959, there were 9,719 registered borrowers.

97,622 books were circulated from the Bookmobile. This includes 53,276 books to the schools. The school children select their books themselves from the Bookmobile as they would in a regular library and the books are stamped and charged to the District. Collections are prepared for the teachers on request. The circulation is counted by book.

The Rural School stops are also used by many adult patrons and in most cases the schools are neighborhood centers.

FILM-STRIP COLLECTION:

1,062 film-strips in library collection

59 schools contract for film-strip service

The County Library charges the school districts fifty cents per pupil per year for rental of the film-strips. Each teacher is given a complete list of the film-strips in September and is notified when new strips are added. The list gives a classification number for each strip and is arranged by subject so the teachers can make their selection easily and quickly. Most of the film-strips are mailed out and the postage is paid by the library going out and by the district when returned. A catalog system has been set up so the film-strips are easily located for circulation.

BRANCHES AND STATIONS:

These are located in quarters provided and maintained by local communities. Two are in Village Halls, one in a Village Library, one in a theatre building, two in hospitals. The attendants are paid by the Villages. Negotiations are being conducted now to establish another Branch in Albany. A location has been difficult to find.

SUMMER SCHEDULE:

A summer printed schedule is distributed to the school and adult patrons and is mailed to each Post Office, School Clerk, Radio Station and Newspaper in the County. Forty-one villages are visited with the Bookmobile every two weeks. Waite Park, a suburb of St. Cloud was first included in the summer of 1958 and continued as a permanent stop. Fernwood, another suburb attached to St. Cloud, is to be included in the Summer of 1960.

COMMUNITY CONTACTS AND PUBLICITY:

The Librarian visits groups throughout the county and attends club meetings and gives book reviews to the members. The Bookmobile schedule is given over the Albany Radio Station KASM each day. The twelve weekly newspapers carry library articles from time to time and frequently list new books. The newspapers print the Bookmobile schedule.

TOTAL CIRCULATION:

In 1959, a total of 117,696 books were circulated, including books circulated at the schools.

FUTURE PLANS:

The population in area served by the Stearns County Library has dropped some according to the 1960 census. It is now 41,098 as

compared to 43,157 in 1950. A large percentage of this population is of school age as many of the young people leave the area when they finish high school. However, there has been an increase in use of the Library in the past few years.

One need we hope to fulfill in the future is the acquisition of a second Bookmobile. An increase in the tax levy for County Library service will be necessary in another year.

LIBRARY AID FUNDS:

The Stearns County Library received \$16,200 from Library Aid funds and this has substantially aided the enlargement of the adult book collection and reference collection. Book stacks and some furniture were purchased for two of the Branches and for Headquarters. It is hoped that a Branch Library can be established in Albany in the near future.

Library Division Moves

In late June, the Library Division was moved from its previous quarters in the State Office Building into larger quarters on the first floor of the State Office Annex, 117 University Ave. There is also a large room in the basement, used principally for storage.

The move required a suspension of service for approximately two weeks, and things are not entirely settled yet. It will require time, and the acquisition of much new and badly needed equipment, before operations are fully settled in the new location.

There are both advantages and disadvantages in the move. The principal disadvantages are the increased distance from the other offices of the Department of Education, including the fiscal office which requires almost daily contact, and considerable inconvenience in reaching other agencies and facilities in the Capitol approach area.

The principal advantages lie in the additional amount of space and the reduction of operations to two different floors instead of three.

Librarians and trustees are reminded that all correspondence and shipments to the Director, the Extension Field Office, and the Extension Library should be directed to the new address. The school library unit is located in the Centennial Building, and all correspondence concerning school libraries should be addressed there.

Library Awards

John Cotton Dana Awards

Nearly one hundred scrapbooks from all kinds of libraries all over the country confronted the five judges who met on April 28 and 29 to select the winners in this year's John Cotton Dana Publicity Awards Contest. The judges, who met at Wilson Company headquarters, were Mildred Stibitz, chairman of the Public Relations Section of ALA's Library Administration Division and chief of the public relations department at the Dayton Public Library; Ruth Phillips, director of the New Rochelle Public Library, New York; Harold Roth, director of the East Orange Public Library, New Jersey; Rose Sellers, associate librarian of Brooklyn College; and Helen Wessels, former editor of *Library Journal*.

The Contest, honoring a great pioneer and promoter of librarianship, is jointly sponsored by the *Wilson Library Bulletin* and ALA's Public Relations Section. The Awards themselves are given by the *Bulletin* and will be presented at The Wilson Company Tea on Monday, June 20, during the ALA conference in Montreal, and will be announced in the general session on Thursday. Scrapbooks winning an award or honorable mention will be on display in booth 907 (Mount Royal Hotel) at the ALA conference, and after that will be available on loan from the Association.

The award winners are as follows:

Among Public Libraries with Population up to 25,000

Glenview, Illinois, Public Library: For completeness and coverage, with demonstration of capacity for good relations in community.

Edgeley, North Dakota, Public Library: Special Award for a library of its size showing an excellent relationship to the community.

Cairo, Georgia, Public Library: Honorable Mention for program coverage of almost all areas a library can cover and for the utilization of many media.

Among Public Libraries between 25,000 and 100,000 Population

Levittown, New York, Public Library: For the general effectiveness of the library's publicity and especially for the organization and presentation of a national display of materials of interest to library trustees.

Riverside, California, Public Library: Special Award for a determined, courageous stand on a basic issue—censorship—and for evidence of the good results of a continuing Public Relations program.

Oak Park, Illinois, Public Library: Special Award for a fine overall presentation, for an unusual presentation which can be used as a model for action.

Among County Libraries between 25,000 and 100,000 Population

Caney Fork Regional Library, Sparta, Tennessee: Honorable Mention for breadth of coverage and recognition of purpose as a motivating force in publicity use.

Among Public Libraries between 100,000 and 200,000 Population

Glendale, California, Public Library: As an excellent example of overall cooperation within the community at all levels and generally good all around coverage.

Pasadena, California, Public Library: Honorable Mention for its effective presentation of a far reaching public relations program which links the library with all civic and many international events.

Grand Rapids, Michigan, Public Library: Honorable Mention for its use of a well rounded publicity program.

Among Public Libraries between 200,000 and 500,000 Population

Oklahoma City Libraries, Oklahoma: Special Award for publicity activity for a single phase of library activity, constantly carried out as the result of long range planning by the library.

Among County Libraries between 200,000 and 500,000 Population

King County Public Library, Seattle, Washington: For demonstration of creative development of a county library program and its relationship to subsidiary agencies.

Among Public Libraries with Population over 500,000

San Antonio, Texas, Public Library: For an excellent all-around program and for its effectiveness in favorably altering the image of the library in the public mind.

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Free Library: Special Award for pioneering in the effort to draw the whole family into the library

and to show that reading is for everyone, for a lifetime.

Among State Libraries

Concord, New Hampshire, State Library: Honorable Mention for demonstrating the variety of publicity outlets available to state libraries.

Among Colleges and University Libraries

University of California, Los Angeles: For dedication to the principle that the book is important, and for the skill with which this point of view is presented.

United States Air Force Academy Library, Colorado: Honorable Mention for breadth of approach in the presentation of a new plant to a limited community.

Among School Libraries

Battleground High School, Battleground, Indiana: For clear statement of objectives and use of publicity to achieve it.

Among Air Force Libraries

Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi: For consistent dedication to the ideal of the library as a link with all phases of base operations. Special commendation for the attractive presentation.

Johnson Base Library, Headquarters 6041st Air Base Group, Japan: Honorable Mention for a well organized long range program; recognition of the goals of good library service, especially in a foreign country.

Brookley Air Force Base Library, Mobile, Alabama: Honorable Mention for emphasis on the library's participation in the activity outside its walls.

Kadena Base Library, AFL 5278, 6313 Air Base Wing, Okinawa: Special Award for earnest attempt to use library services to promote good relations with the local population.

Among Army Libraries

Fort Lee, Virginia: Honorable Mention for attempts to reach all segments of a specialized library community.

Among Veteran Administration Centers

Wood, Wisconsin, V.A. Hospital Library: For imaginative use of various media and agencies to tell the library's story in all of its facets, and for uniform excellency of coverage.

Marlin, Texas, V.A. Hospital Library: Honorable Mention for recognition of public relations value in regularly performed library services.

Minnesota National Library Week

April 3-9, 1960

COMPILATION OF LOCAL QUESTIONNAIRE

Number of libraries reporting—60
Number of communities reporting participation—48
Number of local NLW committees—19
Number of communities reporting special events, meetings, or ceremonies for NLW—35
Actual number of special events, etc.—165
Number of communities reporting school participation in NLW—28
Number of schools participating—139
Number of communities reporting business participation in NLW—27
Number of communities reporting purchase and use of NLW National Promotion aids—46
Number of local newspaper stories published—259
Rating of local newspaper coverage—
 Excellent—9
 Good—26
 Fair—13
 Poor—6
Number of communities reporting local newspaper support better than in previous year—37
Number of communities reporting local newspaper support not as good as previous year—10
Number of communities reporting local radio and television participation—26
Number of radio and television stations participating—39
Estimation of NLW results relating to library circulation and registration, civic support for library:

Circulation and registration

Up—28
Same—23
Down—0

Quality of public response to NLW

Excellent—13
Good—24
Fair—15
Poor—2

Number of communities reporting local comment to National Publicity—31

COMMENTS ON NLW.

1. State Committee did a fine job.
2. Special annotated book lists would be very useful for duplication.
3. Anticipating statistical increase is short sighted.
4. NLW would be more effective if held every other year.
5. NLW would have been better if librarians could have gotten together more to help discuss and plan it.
6. Publicity materials should be ready sooner.
7. Public libraries are doing more than their share of the work. Special, school, and college libraries should do more.
8. Fall would be better season for NLW than Spring.
9. Metropolitan press did not do as well as outstate press.
10. Statistics and opinions appearing on the questionnaire are not valid.
11. Book Week and NLW are too much for a smaller community.
12. Could the small libraries on limited budgets be helped?
13. Promotional aids too expensive.